

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1457

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1631

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2: LINE 30 WAS OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CG

SUBJECT: MCNAMARA VISIT

REF: STATE 034322 KINSHASA 1148

1. PROPOSED MCNAMARA VISIT COMES AT MOST OPPORTUNE TIME.
GIVEN HIS REPUTATION AND HIS PAST GOOD RELATIONS WITH
MOBUTU, HE COULD DO A LOT EVEN IN A FEW HOURS.

2. I RECOMMEND THAT UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, ASST.
TREASURY SECRETARY COOPER AND KNOWLEDGEABLE AF/C OFFICERS
SEEK MEETING WITH MCNAMARA TO BRIEF HIM ON CRITICAL
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN ZAIRE. HE SHOULD
BE TOLD, IF HE DOESN'T ALREADY KNOW IT, THAT WAY THINGS
ARE GOING IBRD POSITION AND SPECIFICALLY GECAMINES LOAN
HE IS COMING TO SIGN WILL BE AT HIGH RISK IF GOZ DOESN'T
PROMPTLY ACT TO STRAIGHTEN OUT ITS ECONOMY. IF ARAB
AND OTHER OIL PRODUCERS MONEY AND SELF-RELIANCE WILL DO
IT, THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR THAT. BUT, IT
IMPERATIVE THAT ZAIRE GET ITSELF IN POSITION ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER TO MEET ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE OBLIGATIONS. THUS,
FAILING OIL MONEY AS POLITICALLY DIFFICULT AS IT APPARENTLY WILL
BE FOR MOBUTU TO SWALLOW IMF MEDICINE, THAT NOSTRUM SHOULD BE
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PRICE OF ASSISTANCE OF WESTERN GOVERNMENTS AND BANKS

AND MOBUTU MUST BE HELPED TO SEE REALITIES. CURRENT
CIS CRISIS, IF NOT MASTERED, WILL MEAN GECAMINES
EXPANSION PROGRAM AND SMTF PROJECT, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE
LONG RUN PAY OUT AS SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE, WILL
BE UNABLE PROCEED OR IF THEY PROCEED LARGELY UNABLE
PRODUCE, GIVEN POWER SHORTAGE SHABA. MOREOVER, WE
SIMPLY DO NOT SEE TODAY WHERE GECAMINES FOREIGN
EXCHANGE CONTRIBUTION TO EXPANSION PROGRAM IS COMING
FROM. THESE SPECIFIC SITUATIONS SHOULD CONCERN
MCNAMARA TO SAY NOTHING OF GENERAL SITUATION IN WHICH
POLITICAL DIRECTION IS TOWARD TIGHT GOVERNMENT CONTROL
AT MINIMUM AND GOVERNMENT NATIONALIZATION OF ALL MAJOR
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTIVE ORGANIZATIONS (EXCEPT
INVESTMENT CODE PROTECTED PROJECTS) AT
MAXIMUM. MOREOVER, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EVERY
FINANCIAL SOURCE IN OECD WORLD IS APPARENTLY CONCERNED
AT EXISTING EXPOSURE AND WARY OF GOING AHEAD WITH EVEN
MOST ATTRACTIVE PROJECTS.

3. MCNAMARA SHOULD ALSO BE TOLD THAT I AM READY AND
WILLING TO MEET WITH HIM FOR BRIEFING ON LATEST
INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY AND TO RESPOND TO ANY
QUESTIONS HE MAY HAVE.

4. ADVISE.
HINTON

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